

CHILD-DIRECTED SPEECH: A WAY TO HELP CHILDREN DEVELOP LINGUISTIC AND SOCIAL COMPETENCE

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This paper deals with the role of child-directed speech (CDS) in building children's linguistic and social competence. CDS is an important way through which children learn their first language. In relation to language learning, high language exposure by CDS is beneficial for children since it makes them able to naturally learn the system of the language through use and implicitly possess conversational understanding. At the same time, through CDS parents reveal the world to their children. It offers children opportunities to interact socially with others in the environment and therefore, helps them develop social understanding needed to prevent misunderstandings that might be present during the interactions. This is first shown by the ability to coordinate attention with others to have a common ground. CDS also presents various cultural concepts that are vital to the later life of the children in order to function as skilled members in their cultures, such as the concept of politeness.

Keywords: child-directed speech, linguistic competence, social competence